[MOE] SUMMARY: Latest Drive Clean analysis shows major reductions in harmful heavy duty diesel vehicle (HDDV) emissions

Ontario's Drive Clean Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicle (HDDV) program targets harmful emissions from large trucks and buses. HDDVs have diesel engines that are a major source of airborne microscopic particulate matter (PM), a constituent of smog.

Numerous studies endorsed by the Ontario Medical Association and by Toronto Public Health have linked PM to aggravated cardiac and respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema and to various forms of heart disease. Diesel emissions also include smog-forming compounds of hydrocarbons (HC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_X). By reducing harmful vehicle emissions, including PM, Drive Clean contributes to the government's goal of ensuring better health for Ontarians.

Drive Clean reduces emissions of smog-causing pollutants as well as other harmful pollutants by requiring vehicles to undergo an emissions test to identify emissions problems and have them repaired, before their licence plates can be renewed or ownership is transferred.

A new report from an independent analysis by G.W. Taylor Consulting describes HDDV emissions reduction results based on data collected from 2000 through 2005 from Drive Clean tests of HDDVs. In this report, G.W. Taylor Consulting applied the same malperformance model used previously to estimate emissions reductions related to the Drive Clean opacity (smoke) test, and an improved dataset that included all HDDVs registered in Ontario.

The report indicates that in 2005 alone, Drive Clean was responsible for reducing PM emissions by 208 tonnes. During this 6 year period from 2000 to 2005, the report also indicates that Drive Clean has reduced PM emissions by over 1,300 tonnes.

To read the entire consultant's report, click on: *Drive Clean Program Emissions Benefit Analysis and Reporting - Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles Years 2000-2005.*